

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 12, 13 and 15, CANCEL claims 6 and 8, and ADD new claim 16 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for issuing a coupon through an automatic transaction apparatus that performs a predetermined transaction interactively with a user, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~(a) storing coupon descriptors and output medium identifiers in an associative manner, each of the coupon descriptors each containing different coupon information, and each of the output medium identifiers each specifying at least one of a plurality of recording media used for coupons;~~

storing security class identifiers in association with the coupon descriptors, each of the security class identifiers specifying security checks to be performed before the user receives a service to which the coupon entitles the user and storing use condition identifiers specifying conditions for use of coupons;

~~(b) selecting one of the coupon descriptors as instructed by the user;~~

~~(c) identifying which recording medium to use as an output medium for the selected coupon descriptor, by consulting the output medium identifier associated with the selected coupon descriptor; and~~

~~(d) outputting the coupon information in the selected coupon descriptor to the identified recording medium, thereby issuing a coupon to the user; and~~

where said outputting includes outputting the security class identifier and the use condition identifiers corresponding to the selected coupon descriptor to the recording medium with the coupon information.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: ~~the step (e) of prompting the user to choose a desired recording medium from a list of selectable recording media, when the output medium identifier associated with the selected coupon descriptor specifies two or more recording media,~~

wherein said outputting step (d) outputs ~~includes~~ outputting the coupon information to the recording medium that the user has chosen at said prompting step (e).

3. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of recording media include an IC card.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of recording media include paper.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of recording media include portable information equipment.

6. (CANCELLED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 6₁, wherein the security checks include password protection that requires the user to enter a predetermined password correctly.

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(h)—inserting a transaction medium into the automatic transaction apparatus, the transaction medium containing an identifier of the user that is required to perform the predetermined transaction with the user;

(i)—determining, based on the output medium identifier associated with the selected coupon descriptor, whether the transaction medium is specified as an output medium for the coupon information; and

(j)—notifying the user that the coupon information cannot be output to the inserted transaction medium, if ~~said upon~~ determining step (i) has revealed that the transaction medium is not specified as an output medium for the coupon information.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein the coupon descriptors and output medium identifiers are delivered from a host computer connected to the automatic

transaction apparatus via a network.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein the coupon descriptors and output medium identifiers are loaded from a portable digital data storage medium.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An automatic transaction apparatus that performs a predetermined transaction interactively with a user, the apparatus comprising:

a data storage unit that stores coupon descriptors and output medium identifiers in an associative manner, each of the coupon descriptors each containing different coupon information; and each of the output medium identifiers each specifying at least one of a plurality of recording media used for coupons, storing security class identifiers in association with the coupon descriptors, each of the security class identifiers specifying security checks to be performed before the user can receive a service to which the coupon entitles the user and storing use condition identifiers specifying conditions for use of coupons;

one or more data output units each being responsible for a particular recording medium in outputting specified coupon information thereto for use by the user; and

an output control unit that identifies which recording medium to use as an output medium by consulting the output medium identifier associated with one of the coupon descriptors that is selected, determines which output data unit is responsible for the identified recording medium, and commands the determined data output unit to output the coupon information of the selected coupon descriptor and the security class identifier and the use condition identifiers corresponding to the selected coupon descriptor to the recording medium.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The automatic transaction apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

an output medium listing unit that provides the user with a list of recording media that can be used as the output medium for the coupon information; and

an output medium selection unit that receives a selection that the user makes when the list of recording media is provided by said output medium listing unit; and

wherein: where the output medium identifier associated with the selected coupon descriptor specifies two or more recording media; and

 said output control unit commands said output medium listing unit to provide the user with a list of the specified recording media, determines which data output unit is responsible for the recording medium selected by the user, and commands the determined data output unit to

output the coupon information of the selected coupon descriptor.

14. (ORIGINAL) The automatic transaction apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

 said data storage unit further stores security class identifiers in association with the coupon descriptors, the security class identifiers each specifying what security checks should be performed before the user can receive a service to which the coupon entitles the user; and

 said output control unit extracts from the data storage unit one of the security class identifiers that is associated with the selected coupon descriptor, and commands the determined data output unit to output the extracted security class identifier together with the coupon information.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A program product that performs a predetermined transaction interactively with a user, the program product causing a computer system to perform ~~a process an operation, comprising the steps of:~~

 (a) storing coupon descriptors and output medium identifiers in an associative manner, ~~each of the coupon descriptors each~~ containing different coupon information, ~~and each of the output medium identifiers each~~ specifying at least one of a plurality of recording media used for coupons;

storing security class identifiers in association with the coupon descriptors, each of the security class identifiers specifying security checks to be performed before the user receives a service to which the coupon entitles the user and storing use condition identifiers specifying conditions for use of coupons;

 (b) selecting one of the coupon descriptors as instructed by the user;

 (c) identifying which recording medium to use as an output medium for the selected coupon descriptor, by consulting the output medium identifier associated with the selected coupon descriptor; and

 (d) outputting the coupon information in the selected coupon descriptor to the identified recording medium, thereby issuing a coupon to the user; and

where said outputting includes outputting the security class identifier and the use condition identifiers corresponding to the selected coupon descriptor to the recording medium with the coupon information.

16. (NEW) A method of issuing a coupon via an automatic transaction apparatus,

comprising:

storing descriptive information of the coupon including output medium identifiers specifying at least one type of recording medium for outputting the coupons, security class identifiers indicating a security measure to be executed when issuing the coupons and use condition identifiers for indicating corresponding use conditions of the coupons;

displaying available coupons to the user upon receipt of a coupon issuance request from a user; and

issuing the coupon to the user based on the user's selection from the available coupons, where the issuing includes indicating the at least one type of recording medium for outputting the coupon, indicating the corresponding use conditions of the coupon and identifying the security measure to be executed upon issuance of the coupon based on the information describing the coupon.